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Executive Registry

14 June 1961

01-5136

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Brigadier General Griffiths, USMC (Ret.)

1. I ran into Griffiths today at lunch. He mentioned that he wanted very much to call on you to pay his respects, if only for a minute, also to General Cabell. In view of what he told me about himself, I offered to try to arrange this. He arrived back in the United States from Spain at the beginning of this week and is leaving for Maine early Friday morning, 16 June.

2. After retiring from the Marine Corps (and receiving his honorary B.G.) in 1956 [REDACTED] he spent four years reading Chinese history at Oxford University where he received a D. Phil. His thesis, "Chinese Military History", is to be published this year, after he rewrites it a bit, by Oxford University Press.

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3. Last winter, while on the island of Isbiza, he received a letter from Walt W. Rostow, whom he has never met, saying that he had just read with interest Griffiths' 1956 translation of Mao Tse Tung's Guerrilla Warfare pamphlet and that he would like to meet Griffiths whenever the latter should come to Washington. Griffiths said to me that he did not know whether he would have time to phone Rostow this visit, but that tomorrow he is dining with his friend, Stewart Alsop, and a friend of the latter who is interested in

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guerrilla warfare. Griffiths wondered whether this would turn out to be Rostow. I commented that I thought he ought to phone Rostow directly, as requested. You will recall that the press recently reported that the President had been reading the Mao Tse Tung translations.

4. Just before leaving Spain, Griffiths had a cable from his agent in New York saying that Prager wanted to publish the translation this fall, together with an introduction to be written by Griffiths. Griffiths has made a firm deal to write the introduction. The translation itself is now in the public domain and Prager is anxious to get the jump on other publishers. Prager asked Griffiths whether he could get General Maxwell Taylor to write a review of the book, which Prager would then see got a good spot in the New York Times or New York Herald Tribune and Griffiths is going to phone General Taylor, whom he knows from General Taylor's language-training days, this afternoon.

5. Griffiths has also undertaken to write a third book, a history of Guadalcanal. He has been at the Pentagon today getting material. He will do all this writing this summer in Maine.

6. While at the Pentagon, his friends introduced him to a scientist who has just been brought in to work on pieces of equipment for guerrilla warfare. Upon the scientist asking for his comments on what gadgets are needed, Griffiths commented forcibly on the need to work out first a politico-social policy for obtaining the essential support of the peasants, cane-cutters, etc.

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7. Griffiths is staying with his friend, Colonel S. T. Clark,

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to whom I

have given the above information. Griffiths will phone your secretary tomorrow morning to learn whether the appointment she has tentatively set up for 12:30 that day has been confirmed by you.

[redacted]

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Assistant to the Inspector General

cc: DDCI